

REPORT
OF
THE DIRECTOR
TO THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND GUARDIANS
OF THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND,
FOR THE YEAR 1884.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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1886.

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REPORT.

National Gallery of Ireland,
July, 1885.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report for the year 1884. The Gallery was open to the public from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, except during the month of October, when it was closed as usual for general cleaning and re-arrangement.

The number of persons who visited the Gallery during that period was as follows:—

| | |
|---|---------|
| By free admission, | 94,801* |
| By payment, | 1,685 |
| By students' attendance, | 1,535 |
| The number of new students admitted to copy was | 25 |
| Of whom fifteen were ladies and ten gentlemen. | |
| The number of the general catalogue sold was | 452 |
| That of catalogue of the Portrait Gallery, | 225 |

The purchase grant for the year amounted only to £750,—£250 of the usual sum having been withheld to repay a portion of the special grant made for the Hamilton sale in 1882. It was expended upon the following pictures:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Balance due for the picture by Rembrandt, purchased last year, | 539 | 16 | 8 |
| Portrait of the 2nd Earl of Northington, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. By Sir Joshua Reynolds, | 175 | 0 | 0 |
| Portrait of Daniel O'Connell. By George Mulvany, R.S.A., | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Portrait of William Carleton, the author. By John Slattery, | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| A large cartoon of a Lion, in chalk and charcoal. By Sir Edwin Landseer, R.S.A., | 54 | 12 | 0 |
| Portrait of John Bunyan, the author. By George Mulvany, R.S.A., | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| A small old copy of Vasdyck's picture of the children of King Charles I., | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| An Italian Landscape with cattle. By Nicholas Boecklin, | 54 | 12 | 0 |
| A small full-length study for a Portrait of Lord Mulgrave, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. By W. Conway, | 10 | 0 | 0 |

The grant for purchase was thus exceeded by the sum of £10 16s. 8d. which excess of expenditure was sanctioned by the Treasury upon condition that savings to that amount were effected under other heads of the grant, a condition which has been complied with.

The following donations were received during the year:—

From the Earl of Portarlington, &c.

1. An Equestrian portrait of King William III. (in oil). By Thomas Wrook.
2. An oval portrait in coloured crayons of the Earl of Chatham. By Hugh Hamilton.
3. Twenty original drawings by ancient Dutch painters, fifteen being studies of ships and shipping by W. Van de Velde.

From His Grace the Duke of Leinster.

1. A portrait (three-quarters length in oil) of Lord Edward FitzGerald. By Hugh Hamilton.

From Colonel William FitzGerald.

1. A miniature portrait of Lord Edward FitzGerald. By Horace Hore, A.R.A.

From William F. Littledale, Esq.

1. A miniature portrait in oil of George Petrie, R.S.A. By E. Mulvanny, R.S.A.

From W. Boyde Pearrell, Esq.

1. A portrait in crayons of Henry O'Neill, the artist. By himself.

From Nathaniel Hore, R.S.A.

1. A miniature portrait of James Gordon, the architect. By Horace Hore, A.R.A.

From the Earl of Wicklow.

3. Curious contemporary Dutch engravings illustrating the flight of King James II., and the accession of King William III., and a fine engraving, portrait of the Duke of Schomberg, after Kneller.

* 83,174 of the above number visited the Gallery on Sundays.

From the Misses Parcell.

A portrait of Peter Parcell, Esq., Founder of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland. By Cotterson Smith, R.S.M.A.

From the Earl of Mayo.

A miniature portrait of John Shears. By James Comerford.

From Stephen Cotterson Smith, R.S.M.A.

A small oil portrait of Sir Philip Crampton, Bart. By Cotterson Smith, R.S.M.A.

From the Rev. C. F. Moahan.

A portrait of Father Luke Welding. Line engraving, after Carlo Maratti.

And small copies of original portraits of the following :—

1. Peter Lombard, R.C. Archbishop of Armagh.
2. O'Sullivan, Earl of Bear and Bantry.
3. Father Banaventura Barry, O.S.F.
4. John Baptist Rinuccini, Papal Nunzio to Ireland, 1646.
5. Father John Colgan, O.S.F.
6. Hugh MacCaghwell, R.C. Archbishop of Armagh.
7. Thomas Fleming, R.C. Archbishop of Dublin.

From Sir George Hodson, Bart. :—

A large plaster cast of an antique bust of Jupiter.

From Henry E. Doyle, O.S. :—

A small portrait in water colours of His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman. By the Donor.

The following five pictures by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., were received from the Trustees of the National Gallery, London, as permanent loans under the conditions of the National Gallery Loan Act, and were hung in the gallery :—

1. Lake Avernus. The Fates and the Golden Bough.
2. The Opening of the Walhalla, by King Ludwig of Bavaria.
3. The Departure of Regulus.
4. Venice. Santa Maria della Salute.
5. Richmond Bridge.

The following pictures were lent to the Royal Academy at the request of the President and Council, to form part of the Winter Exhibition of Old Masters, &c., at Burlington House :—

1. Portrait of Anthony Hundertpfundt. By Wolfgang Hauber.
2. Portrait of Margaret Knoblauchin. By Hans Arpe.

They were insured for £200 each, and safely returned upon the close of the Exhibition in March.

The large new room on the ground floor, lately completed by the Board of Works, was opened as a National Historical and Portrait Gallery, on the 23rd of June. The collection placed in it then comprising forty-eight oil paintings, six water colour drawings, nineteen drawings in crayons and pencil, twenty line engravings, fifty-five medallions, and six marble busts.

A separate catalogue for it was brought out, and sold in the gallery, at the price of One Penny.

With the sanction of the Treasury an additional porter was appointed to take charge of the new room.

The five pictures by Turner were cleaned, restored, and glazed.

Those by the following were cleaned and varnished :—Mulvany (2), Sir J. Reynolds, Slattery, Crowley, Berchem, Wyck.

Those by the following were framed and glazed :—Mulvany (2), Slattery, Crowley, Hayes, Comerford, Hone, Healy, Alpenny, Mulreanin, and four old Dutch engravings.

The Reynolds and Vandyck were glazed.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. DOYLE